Possible mortality issues that might be discussed by the Technical Panel:

1. Overall method. Should the cause-of-death approach continue to be used? If the answer is no, what alternative(s) should be recommended?
2. Improvement by age. Should ultimate mortality rate improvement be constant for all ages or decrease for increasing age?
3. Gender. What should be the relation between ultimate male and female mortality rates and rates of improvement?
4. Smoking and obesity. Should smoking and/or obesity be incorporated in the mortality projections on an implicit or explicit manner? If so, how?
5. Other influential factors. Should other factors, such as mortality by marital status be recognized? If so, how?
6. Cohort mortality. Has there been or should future mortality be expected to differ by cohort (generation)?
7. If the cause of death method is kept,
    a. Cause categories. Are the current cause categories the best possible ones? For example, should dementia be separated?
    b. Base historical period. How many years of historical experience should be used as a base for the projections (aggregate and by cause)?
    c. Ultimate period. Should twenty years continue to be the period at which ultimate rates begin to be used?
    d. Method of moving from current to ultimate improvement rates appropriate for all causes?
    e. What alternative rates should the Panel suggest if it disagrees with the current set?
8. Very old ages. Should mortality compression or an extension of the age that everyone dies be expected?
9. Inequality. Is current approach to post-entitlement assumptions appropriate? Are these assumptions regarding future benefit levels appropriate and should a trend in these assumptions be applied?
10. Relationship with other key variable. Is there a direct link to other demographic or economic assumptions and mortality (either way), for example, mortality and DI claim continuance?
11. Uncertainty. Does the panel have any suggestions regarding the quantification and communication of mortality uncertainty? In other words, is the current form of sensitivities, range of values and stochastic modeling reasonable?

December 7, 2014